Dear Paul,

8/1/77

I appreciate your concern so I'll make it a point not to forget this letter. When I finish It I'll put it with the outgoing mail even though I plan a few enclosures I think you'll appreciate. They are Lil's department.

The medical consultation went exactly as the local countryOboy doctor said long ago. It resulted in the recommendation of those tests he mentioned to me and my insurer would not do. All except one on which decision is postponed can be and will be done locally. That is the artery scan, whatever the techincal name ir. Maybe aretiogram. There is some risk, if slight, in tyat one so it is not done except as necessary.

I'm to go back on the coumadin, as the local doctor would have done save he wanted no interference with today's examination. I'll speak to him tomorrow. The hospital will recommend back to him on the tests.

One of the tests he first mentioned has been done. It is an ulstrasound business with the arteries for sure in some places and maybe with the veins.

Their believe is that something else has happened and they do not know what. If they have any hunches they did not indicate them. So I suppose the tests are aimed at eliminating or determining or both. I'll know what they are in time.

So to this extent I'm reassured. I was not hospitalized today and no rush or urgency was indicated. Limited as my capaicty for physical exercise is I'm to do what I can only more often if so much less.

I was examined by both the chief of surgery at Georgetown Univ. hospital and by his assistant, individually and together. And they were, individually and between them, less hurried than the run-of-the-mill doctors at GHA to whom we may so much annually. They could not have been nicer. Even the attractive young nurse was fine. All good human beings in their manner, not just professional medical people, This made me feel so good! It turns out the nurse has local roots, relatives we don't know but of whom we do know.

Even transportation was fine. Lil knew what I did not, that for the over-60 and for those of any age to whom the county provides medical assistanace they also provide transportation. They provided a very fine black man with a stationwagon for the day. He picked up up here and brought us back here. First trip inWashington was to get measured for new Jobst supports. Then the hospital. When we left it was into a heavy thunderstorm. We actually got turned around by fallen trees blocking roads. Delayed us but this was a first-rate driver, as careful as any with whom I've ever driver.

So Except that nothing happened today and that I feel better being in such hands, regardless of the bill when I get it and then those ahead, I can't say much yet. I am anxious to get back on the coumaedin despite the problems it presents because I am certain something has happened to the veins, too.

Of course I was uneasy and if to a lesser degree I will remain uneasy. But for the kind of day this was for me, storm or no storm, it was as good as could be expected. As we left we picked up the letters of which I'll send tou copies. They also made me feel good. They were the best possible way to begin this kind of trip.

Best,